

It's been only a few months since the FCC has felt the anger of millions of American citizens on the media consolidation issue.

Michael Powell's fatuous comments about the increasing number of channels providing adequate diversity are brought into clear focus by the present Sinclair Broadcasting debacle.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is theoretically obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for George Bush and crony capitalism, and less of what we need for our democracy.

Commissioners, it's way past time to bring back the equal-time regulation. It also is time to begin holding some hearings on whether Sinclair should be allowed to continue to hold broadcasting licenses. If it were up to me, I would announce those hearings rather vocally in the next few days.

There needs to be more fact checking and more truth conveyed by television media. The current situation is more like 1970s-1980s Soviet Russia. Sinclair Broadcasting and Fox News are not serving the public interest; rather they are propaganda organs of the Republican Party.